

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 8, 2022

Mr. George Rumford
Acting Director
Test Resource Management Center
Department of Defense
4800 Mark Center Drive,
Suite 07J22
Alexandria, Virginia 22350

Dear Mr. Rumford:

We write in strong support of the Air Force Research Laboratory, Aerospace Systems Directorate, Rocket Propulsion Division (AFRL Rocket Lab) request for \$10.32 million from the Department of Defense Test Resource Management Center through the Central Test and Evaluation Investment Program (CTEIP). These funds would allow for physical upgrades and refurbishment of the Large Vertical Solid Rocket Test Stand (Test Stand 1-C) and associated equipment, which would enhance our nation's test enterprise.

With the reactivation of Test Stand 1-C, the AFRL Rocket Lab would contribute to critical aspects of both solid rocket motor and launch vehicle system development by providing the ability to vertically ground test full-scale liquid stages and missile segments. By bolstering pre-flight test work, improving test capabilities, and adding a vertical test stand online, our nation will receive better data than is currently available, which strengthens vital design and engineering work and greatly reduces the risk of rocket or missile failure during flight. This offers our country the ability, over the next 25 years, to "test like we fly," providing invaluable information that will make our weapon and launch systems even more robust.

Again, we support the AFRL Rocket Lab's request for \$10.32 million to reactivate Test Stand 1-C, which would help position our nation's research and development efforts for future success. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



KEVIN McCARTHY
House Republican Leader



JAY OBERNOLTE
Member of Congress



MIKE GARCIA
Member of Congress